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platelets, preventing a decrease in a loading efficiency gradient in the loading of the oligosaccharide into the platelets, and lyophilizing the platelets. The preventing a decrease in a loading efficiency gradient in the loading of the oligosaccharide into the platelets may comprise maintaining a concentration of the oligosaccharide in the oligosaccharide solution below about 50 mM. The preventing a decrease in a loading efficiency gradient in the loading of the oligosaccharide into the platelets may also comprise maintaining a positive gradient of loading efficiency (%) to concentration (mM) of the oligosaccharide in the oligosaccharide solution.

Embodiments of the present invention also provide a process for preparing a dehydrated composition comprising disposing platelets in an oligosaccharide solution for loading an oligosaccharide from the oligosaccharide solution into the platelets, preventing a decrease in a loading gradient in the loading of the oligosaccharide into the platelets, and lyophilizing the platelets. The preventing a decrease in a loading gradient in the loading of the oligosaccharide into the platelets may comprise maintaining a concentration of the oligosaccharide in the oligosaccharide solution below about 50 mM. The preventing a decrease in a loading gradient in the loading of the oligosaccharide into the platelets may also comprise maintaining a positive gradient of concentration of oligosaccharide loaded into the platelets to concentration of the oligosaccharide in the oligosaccharide solution.

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